

REMARKS

Claims 1-39 remain herein.

1. Claims 1-4, 7, 8, 11, 14-17, 20, 21, 24, 27-30, 33, 34 and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Kang U.S. Patent Application Publication 2004/0156143. Enclosed is a verified English translation of applicants' priority document JP 2003/278063, filed July 23, 2003. Kang was filed January 9, 2004 and published on August 12, 2004. Since applicants' priority date precedes the publication date of Kang, Kang is an improper basis for rejecting claims 1-4, 7, 8, 11, 14-17, 20, 21, 24, 27-30, 33, 34 and 37 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Kang is also an improper basis for rejecting applicants' claims under any other provision of 35 U.S.C. § 102, including 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)(1). Kang's § 102(e)(1) prior art filing date is January 9, 2004. Since applicants' July 23, 2003 priority date precedes Kang's filing date, Kang is an improper basis for rejecting applicants' claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)(1).

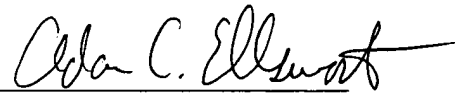
2. Claims 5, 6, 9, 10, 12, 13, 18, 19, 22, 23, 25, 26, 31, 32, 35, 36, 38 and 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Kang and Applicants' Admitted Prior Art (AAPA). As discussed above, Kang is an improper basis for rejecting any of applicants' claims under any provision of 35 U.S.C. § 102, which also disqualifies Kang as de jure prior art under § 103(a). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Accordingly, all claims 1-39 are now fully in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. The PTO is hereby authorized to charge/credit any fee deficiencies or overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-4293. If further amendments would place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Verified English Translation of JP 2003-278063